



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief at Welsh Road, Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire



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**Northamptonshire
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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	An archaeological watching brief along the Anglian Water pipeline Welsh Road, Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire,	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was carried out between October and November 2010 by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land alongside Welsh Road, Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire, in response to a new water pipeline being connected by Anglian Water. The watching brief revealed no archaeological finds or deposits.	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Road side grass verge	
Future work	No	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Welsh Road, Chipping Warden	
Easting Northing	Between SP 5106 4943 and SP 5166 4846	
Area (sq m/ha)	1.6km long	
Height above OD	c119-127m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Lesley-Anne Mather, Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke & Paul Clements, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Anglian Water Services Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	21/10/2010	
End date	8/12/2010	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	NA Store	None
Paper		None
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT WELSH ROAD, CHIPPING WARDEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

December 2010

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out between October and November 2010 by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land alongside Welsh Road, Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire, in response to a new water pipeline being connected by Anglian Water. The watching brief revealed no archaeological finds or deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd to undertake a continuous watching brief along the route of a water pipeline parallel to Welsh Road, Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire (Between SP 5106 4943 and SP 5166 4846; Fig 1). The works replaced an existing leaking water main along the western roadside verge. The work was undertaken in accordance with a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Brown 2010) to meet the requirements of the local authority brief (Mather 2010).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

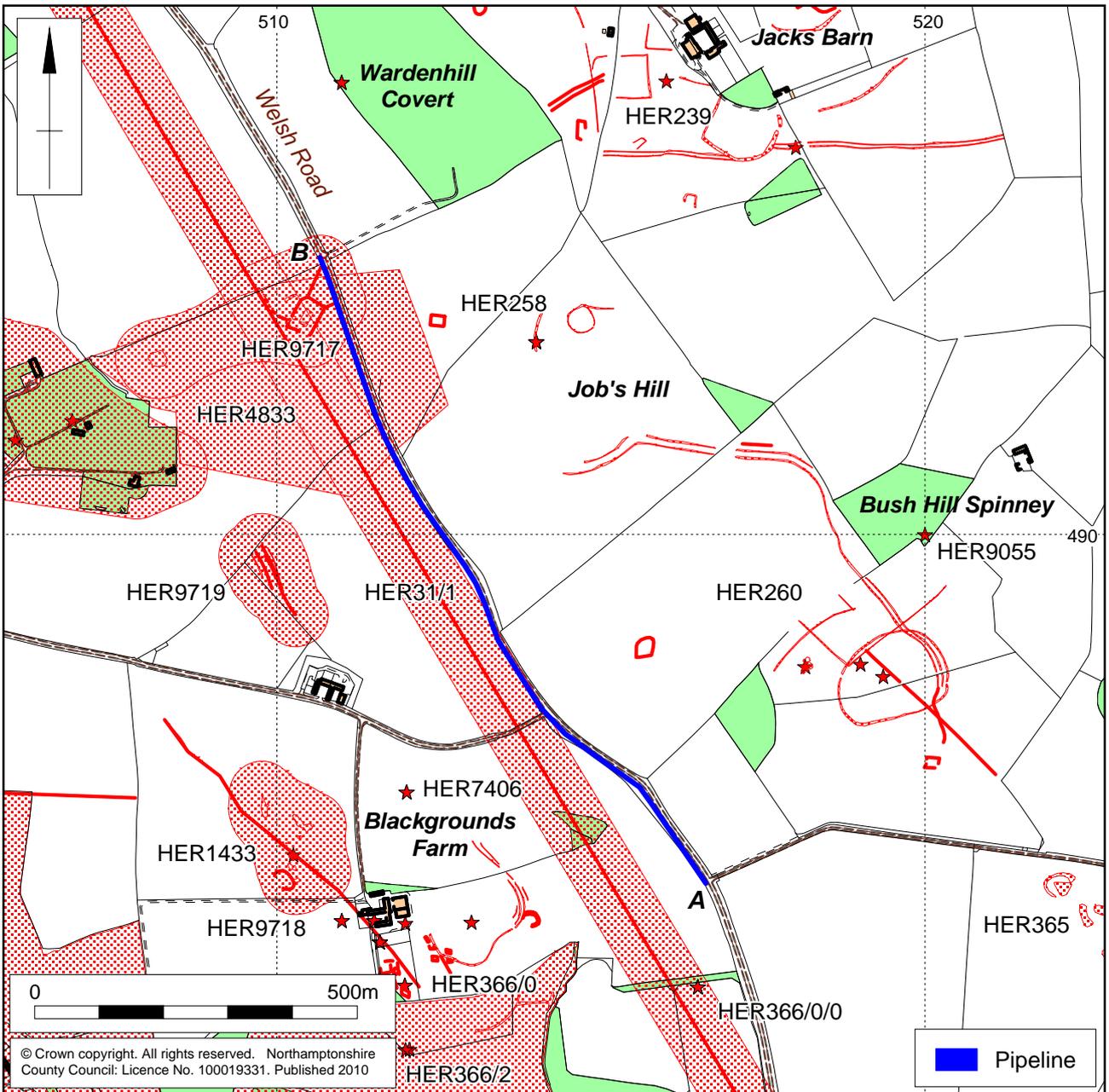
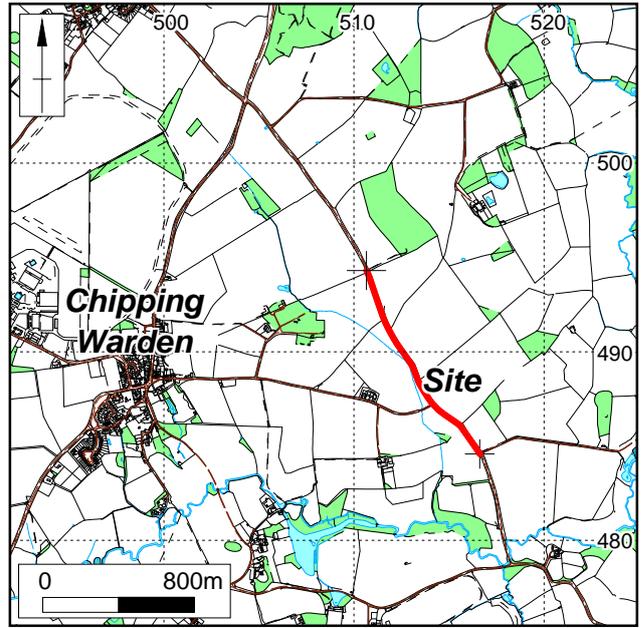
A search of the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER), within 250m to either side of the pipeline corridor, showed that it lies within a known area of archaeological remains (Fig 1). It indicated potential archaeological areas dating from prehistory to the late post medieval.

The HER lists Mesolithic or Neolithic flint flakes to the west of the pipeline (HER7406). Undated cropmarks exist close to the start of the northern extent of the pipeline (HER9717), to the north at Jacks Barn (HER239), to the east upon Job's Hill and Bush Hill (HER258; 260) and to the west (HER9719). Their shapes and forms suggest early enclosures connected by sinuous trackways that may have prehistoric origins, and perhaps continued in use into the Roman period.

There are several Roman sites that exist around the vicinity of the development area. A Roman road lay north-west to south-east alongside Welsh Road (HER31/1). To the south-west extensive Roman remains also exist at Blackgrounds Farm which may be part of a small town (HER366/0). A watching brief was undertaken at Blackgrounds Farm (Dalton and Booth 1997). Within the complex is a possible villa (HER366/2), communication links (HER1433), industrial activity (HER9718) and a cemetery (HER366/1). Roman coins were found by metal detector, east of Welsh Road, close to the projected line of the Roman road (HER 366/0/0).

Ridge and furrow earthworks are visible in the fields at the north end of the pipeline (HER4833) and at Bush Hill (HER9055). Medieval or post-medieval quarrying lies to the east which may be connected with Trafford Manor deserted village (HER365).

No archaeological work is recorded for the previous pipeline and subsequent repairs.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Topography and geology

The area being excavated is located on the western side of Welsh Road within the grass verge which is flanked by near continuous hedges and several trees along the edge of the fields. Modern ditches follow the road on either side. The pipe trench is located near the bottom of a small tributary stream valley that flows south into the River Cherwell. The ground rises swiftly to the summit of Job's Hill, to the east, and more gently towards Chipping Warden village, to the west. The ground surface along the pipeline is between c119-127m above Ordnance Datum.

The local geology is made up of Middle and Upper Lias clays (BGS 2001). The soils are of the Denchworth association, slowly permeable clayey soils with fine loamy over clayey soils which can suffer from seasonal waterlogging (LAT 1983).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

It was the aim of the archaeological fieldwork to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains within their cultural and environmental setting. The objectives were established in pursuit of national and regional research agendas (EH 1997; Cooper 2006).

The specific objectives of the watching brief were to:

- Identify any undiscovered archaeological features during the pipeline works
- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation along the line of the pipe trench
- Establish the stratigraphic relationships of surrounding deposits and consider these in relation to nearby above-ground features where they may be relevant
- Collect all artefacts clearly pre-dating the modern period for further analysis, except where they constitute non-stratified losses of a generic nature such as brick, tile or animal bone from topsoil
- Sample deposits that clearly predate modern material that could be considered for their potential to provide palaeo-environmental data on local conditions and will, if suitable, be sampled as appropriate.

3.2 Methodology

The topsoil and subsoil was removed to an average depth of 1.00m along 1.6km of pipe trench using a JCB excavator fitted with a 0.30m wide smooth ditching bucket. Two test pits were excavated to locate previous service connections before the main length of the pipe trench. The work was conducted along the pipe trench with the stripped topsoil and subsequent subsoil, makeup layers and modern backfill placed away from the road. The pipe trench was excavated in 100m sections then backfilled.

Potential archaeological features were cleaned using a shovel and trowel within the confines of the pipe trench. A full photographic record comprising both 35mm

monochrome negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplementing digital photographs which form the principal photographic record for the purpose of this report. Scale map plots were produced using Mapinfo 8.0 software from Ordnance Survey data and annotated with reference to the *pro-forma* watching brief record sheets in order to track the progress of the pipe trench excavation. This was supplemented with sketches and scale section drawings as necessary.

The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching briefs* (IfA 2008) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010), the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and MoRPHE Project Planning* (EH 2006) and the Northamptonshire Archaeology fieldwork manual (NA 2006).

4 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 Pipeline connections

Test pit A

The test pit was at the southern end of the pipeline, at point A (Fig 1). This was located over a probable previous test pit next to inspection covers, and was 1.8m by 0.85m, excavated to a depth of 1.35m. This test pit was later expanded to 2.90m by 1.90m and 1.45m deep to the surface of the light blue and yellowish-orange natural clay substrate. The section revealed mixed backfill from the previous test pit and pipeline trench. A deposit of bluish-grey clay, 0.20m thick, lay above the existing pipe at a depth of 1.30m. The remaining fill was mid-orange-grey silty clay mixed with bluish-grey clay and orange-brown silty clay. The subsoil comprised mid-orange-brown silty clay, 0.35m thick, overlain by brownish-grey loamy clay topsoil. No archaeological features were found in this area (Fig 2).



Southern connection point A, looking east Fig 2

Test pit B

A test pit was also excavated at point B to locate the previous pipe trench and find the connections (Fig 1). This test pit was lay at the northern end of the pipeline, point B, over the site of a previous test pit and was 1.85m by 1.00m, to a depth of 1.20m. The end of an asbestos water pipe and the existing cast iron water pipe lay within heavily disturbed mixed orange-brown silty clay and bluish-orange brown clay fill, which included modern frogged bricks. No archaeological features were identified (Fig 3).



Section of test pit B, looking north-west Fig 3

4.2 The pipe trench

The pipe trench was 0.30m wide by 1.00m deep. The length of the pipeline totalled 1.6km. The natural substrate was predominantly mid orangey-brown clay mixed with patches of bluish-grey clay. In places the natural changed to orange-red sandy ironstone.

Sporadic patches of large angular ironstone were found pressed into the surface of the natural clay, one of these contained three layers of stones. These may have been part of hardcore makeup layers or formed an earlier, now disused land drain (Fig 4). Numerous other ceramic and plastic field drains were encountered. Most fill material comprised modern backfill from the earlier pipe trench and was a mixture of clay and silty clay deposits. The northern end of the trench contained various modern items (bricks, plastic and nails), which were noted but discarded.

Repairs to the current pipe were evident, noted by a pea grit layer just below the topsoil. Some more substantial repairs were identified by a mixed, small to large sized, light grey stone (Fig 5). Dark grey-brown loamy clay topsoil, 0.20m thick, was consistent along the pipe trench. No archaeological features were identified.



Ironstone pieces, looking north-east Fig 4



An example of a pipe repair, looking north-east Fig 5

5 SUMMARY

The watching brief identified no archaeological finds or deposits despite being within an area of known archaeology identified by the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record. The pipeline trench was excavated through topsoil containing modern debris. Being excavated so close to an earlier pipe trench most of the substratum layers also contained evidence of modern materials and later disturbance. Sporadic patches of ironstone were seen throughout the pipe trench,

but only one of these formed a possible earlier field drain constructed of large pieces of ironstone. Numerous modern field drains were encountered.

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